

Message Text

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TAGS: PINS, SHUM, GJ

SUBJ: SERIOUS QUESTIONS REMAIN DESPITE NOT GUILTY VERDICT IN
BELMAR MURDER TRIAL

REF: BRIDGETOWN 0044 (NOTAL)

1. SERIOUS QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED DESPITE THE NOT
GUILTY VERDICT FOUND JULY 25 IN THE TRIAL OF KENNEDY BUDHLLAL
AND LAURISTON WILSON, GRENADIANS CHARGED WITH THE JAN. 4
MURDER OF FORMER MINISTER INNOCENT BELMAR (REFTEL). THE FOUR-
WEEK LONG TRIAL IN THE COURT OF JUSTICE ARCHIBALD NEDD WAS
MARKED BY CONTRADICTORY EVIDENCE FROM WITNESSES, THREE OF WHOM
IDENTIFIED BUDHLLAL AS THE MURDERER DESPITE THE PRESENTATION OF
SOLID ALIBIS FOR THE DEFENDENTS BY ATTORNEYS MAURICE BISHOP AND
KENRICK RADIX, WHO ARE ALSO OPPOSITION NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT
PARLIAMENTARIANS. ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT AND NEWSPAPER
REPORTS, THREATS OF VIOLENCE AND ACTUAL ARSON AND PHYSICAL
ABUSE DIRECTED AT MEMBERS OF AND WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE GAVE
THE PROCEEDINGS A SERIOUS POLITICAL DIMENSION OUTSIDE THE
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COURTROOM.

2. THE MOST SERIOUS QUESTIONS REMAINING INCLUDE THE TESTIMONY
OF BOTH DEFENDENTS THAT THEY WERE BEATEN AND THREATENED
BY POLICE AIDES AND REGULAR POLICE IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THEIR ARREST AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED PROPER MEDICAL
ATTENTION. THE CONFLICTING TESTIMONY OFFERED

BY THREE EYE-WITNESSES WOULD ALSO SEEM TO INDICATE SOME DELIBERATE PERJURY ON THE PART OF PROSECUTION WITNESSES. THE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, OF FILING CHARGES AGAINST THE POLICE OR INDIVIDUALS FOR ABUSE OF THEIR CLIENTS EVEN THOUGH JUSTICE NEDD IS QUOTED IN THE TORCHLIGHT AS QUESTIONING THE ACTIONS OF QUOTE MEN DRESSED IN A LITTLE BRIEF AUTHORITY UNQUOTE, I.E. THE ACTIONS OF THE POLICE AIDES. PERHAPS THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE GRENADA SCENE, EVIDENCED BY APPARENT ARSON AT THE HOMES OF OPPOSITION SENATOR BEN JONES AND DEFENSE WITNESS LLOYD JOHN (ORIGINALLY CHARGED IN THE BELMAR SHOOTING ALSO BUT RELEASED AFTER A MARCH ENQUIRY), WILL PRECLUDE FURTHER LEGAL ACTION IN THE CASE.

3. AMERICAN LAWYER HERB SEMMEL WAS AN OBSERVER THROUGHOUT THE TRIAL FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. SEMMEL TOLD NEWSMEN BEFORE LEAVING GRENADA THAT HE WOULD BE FILING A COMPLETE THOUGH CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON HIS FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS.

4. THE WHO AND EXACT WHERE, WHEN AND WHY OF BELMAR'S MURDER SEEM EVEN MORE CONFUSING AFTER TRIAL TESTIMONY. BELMAR'S MOTHER AND SISTER, FOR EXAMPLE, ENDED UP TESTIFYING FOR THE DEFENSE. BELMAR'S MOTHER PARTICULARLY NOTED THAT BELMAR HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF HARASSMENT AND SEARCHES BY THE POLICE IN THE WEEKS BEFORE HIS DEATH AND THAT HE WAS SPECIFICALLY SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS
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BEFORE HE ENTERED GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS OR THE PARLIAMENT. RUMORS THAT BELMAR WAS THE VICTIM OF SOME OF HIS FORMER ASSOCIATES IN THE POLICE FORCE HAVE CIRCULATED IN GRENADA SINCE THE ORIGINAL ARRESTS.
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